NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen R. Cook (619) 557-6747

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 2, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that Guadalupe Flores-Guimenez, aka "Raul Barron," was sentenced to twelve months in federal prison for making a false statement to federal officers concerning a potential terrorist attack.

Flores entered a guilty plea today to the one-count indictment, admitting that he lied when he told agents of the Joint Terrorism Task Force ("JTTF") that he had overheard a conversation between a Middle Eastern male and a Mexican male in which the two discussed using explosives to carry out an attack on the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Stephen R. Cook, who prosecuted the case, Flores told the Court that he gave JTTF agents the license plate number from the vehicle of a man with whom he had been involved in a traffic accident, claiming that the vehicle belonged to one of the men he overheard discussing the terrorist plot. Flores admitted in court today that he manufactured the story in order to exact revenge on the other man for his involvement in the traffic accident.

United States Attorney Lam said that "law enforcement authorities encourage the public to provide information concerning criminal activity." She warned, however, that "as this case demonstrates, those who knowingly provide false information about a terrorist attack will be held accountable."

United States Attorney Lam praised the efforts of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agents assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

"ICE takes threats such as this one and others very seriously. We will do everything we can within our jurisdiction and authority to arrest individuals who threaten our national security. In today's environment, nothing is more important, "said Michael Unzueta, Acting Special Agent in Charge for ICE Investigations in San Diego.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel Dzwilewski explained, "law enforcement agencies are working on a full-time basis to ensure the safety of American citizens. Diversions and nuisance investigations are a waste of valuable time, resources, and the public's money."

DEFENDANT

GUADALUPE FLORES-GUIMENEZ, a/k/a Raul Barron

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

False Statement to a Federal Officer in violation of Title 18, United States Code, § 1001

AGENCIES

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security

Federal Bureau of Investigation